State Democrats to push new insulin pricing legislation in coming session

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› CLASSIFIED, PAGE 9A ★ JANUARY 31, 2020

Senate witnesses unlikely

Quick end to impeachment trial seen

By Lisa Mascaro, Eric Tucker and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee will oppose calling more witnesses in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, all but dashing Democratic efforts to hear more testimony, and boosting odds the Senate will vote imminently to acquit Trump without new testimony, in a matter of days.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said late Thursday she would vote to allow witnesses in the impeachment trial, building momentum for the Democrats' effort. A vote is expected Friday.

But Alexander then said in a statement there was "no need for more evidence," giving the Trump team the likelihood of a Senate vote in its direction.

Collins, a centrist senator announced her decision after the Senate concluded a long question-and-answer session with the House Democrats prosecuting the

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL, 7A

SENATE TELEVISION

Chief Justice John Roberts reads a question during the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump on Thursday in the Senate.

St. Paul mulls 1% sales tax

Council to debate sending plan to Legislature

By Frederick Melo
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The St. Paul City Council likely will ask state lawmakers this year to allow the city to raise sales taxes by one penny on every dollar.

Just what the final proposal will focus on generating funds for — roadwork, public transit, early childhood education and anti-homelessness initiatives — remains to be seen.

A proposed resolution on the Feb. 5 council agenda calls for the council to ask St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter's office to hire a legislative consultant to monitor sales tax hearings this legislative session and discuss the 1 percent sales tax with key lawmakers and community members.

"I think it's just important to clarify we're not presenting a bill this session," said Council Member Rebecca Noecker. "We think this is a promising potential new source of revenue for some of our

CITY SALES TAX, 10A

Global health emergency declared

CHINATOPIX VIA AP

A doctor prepares Thursday at a hospital in Wuhan, China, the epicenter of a virus epidemic that has infected 9,692 and killed 213 in China.

U.S. advises against travel to China as deadly virus continues to spread

By Ken Moritsugu
Associated Press

BEIJING — The U.S. advised against all travel to China on Friday after the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a new virus that has spread to more than a dozen countries a global emergency. The number of cases spiked more than tenfold in a week, including the highest death toll in a 24-hour period reported Friday.

The State Department's travel advisory told Americans currently in China to consider departing using commercial means, and requested that all non-essential U.S. government personnel defer travel "in light of the novel coronavirus."

"Travelers should be prepared for travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advance notice. Commercial carriers have reduced or suspended routes to and from China," it said.

China counted 9,692 confirmed cases with a death toll of 213, including 43 new fatalities. The vast majority of the cases have been in Hubei province and its provincial capital, Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak. No deaths have been reported outside China.

In the seven days ending at midnight Thursday, the National Health Commission reported 596 cases have been "cured and discharged from hospital."

The U.N. health agency defines an international emergency as an "extraordinary

CHINA VIRUS, 10A

Hmong partnership faces issues

Farmers market, 401(k) and grant problems seen

By Frederick Melo
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When Natalie Bontrager joined Hmong American Partnership as an interim farming coordinator in 2015, she inherited a program in disarray.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture had authorized HAP's Arcade Street farmers market to accept federal food stamps the year before, and the state advertised the market broadly.

"We found out that WIC (food assistance participants) would show up to the farmers market that HAP was supposed to be hosting,

HMONG AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP, 10A

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